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FROM: U. S. Mission BERLIN

TO: SecState WASH G-166  
Ambassador Bonn G-112INFO: Ambassador LONDON G-305  
Ambassador PARIS G-224

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Ambassador MOSCOW G-274  
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Paris for Embassy, USRO, Stocessel and Finn.

Ref: Curtel 607 to Dept; our G-461 to Dept, June 14; our G-462 to Dept, June 15; Berlin Despatch 703, June 6.

Walter Ulbricht, First Secretary SED and Chairman State Council, held "international" press conference in East Berlin June 15 on German peace treaty and Berlin free city proposals. In general, Ulbricht's responses repeated themes and slogans contained in June 14 joint declaration of SED Politburo, GDR State and Ministers' Councils and National Council National Front (re curtel 607 to Dept) and in June 13 editorial Neuen Deutschland entitled "Maximum of Good Will" (re our G-461 to Dept June 14). Major novelty of press conference was Ulbricht's frank discussion of situation regarding refugees, West Berlin's borders, access routes to Berlin and activities which could be carried on in West Berlin after free city established.

Re refugees, Ulbricht said:

"We hold it as self-evident that so-called refugee camps in West Berlin will be closed and persons who occupy themselves with traffic in mankind will leave Berlin. To these belong not only espionage centers of West German FedRep but also espionage services of USA, France and England.

"I should like to add that it is understandable that there will be persons who have intention to change their residence. Some will wish to resettle from GDR to West German FedRep and others will wish to resettle from the FedRep in GDR ... All this will be permitted only according to legal procedures. Entry and exit of citizens of GDR is regulated ... by law. Therefore whoever obtains a permission from organs of the GDR, from Interior Ministry, will be able to leave the GDR, who does not receive it cannot leave GDR."

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In response to further question on same subject, Ulbricht made it clear that persons already in West Berlin as refugees, as well as West Berliners, would be subjected to GDR controls in flying from West Berlin to FedRep.

Re "borders of West Berlin," Ulbricht said:

"State boundaries run, as is known, along Elbe, etc. Territory of West Berlin belongs to territory of GDR. In certain sense there would exist national boundary questions also between West Berlin and the GDR if neutralization of West Berlin takes place. But there exists difference between regulations which will be valid for state boundaries with West Germany and regulations which will be found for Berlin."

Re access to Berlin from FedRep, Ulbricht said:

"We understand interest of Western powers and West Berlin in keeping communications of West Berlin in all directions in good order. If GDR assumes full control under peace treaty over all communication means, not very much in fact will be changed from present situation. Already we control 95 percent of traffic by water and land. Five or three percent which concerns military transports would then be added and to this would come control over air connections.

"Whoever wishes no interruption should be for early negotiations ... Sooner negotiations take place so much more smoothly and simply will it be possible to solve all questions of access. This means: No one can avoid having discussions with GDR concerning these questions."

In response to question as to how he reconciled proposed limitations on certain activities in West Berlin with other statements he had made previously regarding right of West Berlin as Free City to regulate its own affairs, Ulbricht replied:

"You ask question, who shall determine what will be allowed in West Berlin and what will not be allowed. In peace treaty, this will be set down. Peace treaty will define what it will mean in details for West Berlin to be demilitarized Free City. Government of GDR has no worries regarding these questions."

Comment: Interview added little new to material previously published regarding East German position on questions discussed. Though Ulbricht was evasive on subject, context of his remarks on what activities "would be allowed" in West Berlin leads to conclusion that in treaty defining free city status of city he would insist on articles specifically banning activities which GDR defined as hostile to it. Willingness Ulbricht discuss refugee question so frankly is noteworthy since his remarks could alarm East German population, inducing even greater refugee flow at this time.

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Possibility therefore exists, as we indicated in our G-462 to Dept, June 15, regarding Neuen Deutschland attack on Kirchentag, that East German regime may already have plans to introduce during summer stricter controls over travel from SovZone to Berlin.

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*AD*  
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June 16

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